



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Portland District

PUBLIC NOTICE

for PERMIT APPLICATION

Issue Date: May 29, 2003

Expiration Date: June 30, 2003

Corps of Engineers Action ID: 200100282

30 Day Notice

Oregon Division of State Lands Number: RF 23850/DET 020584

Interested parties are hereby notified that an application has been received for a Department of the Army permit for certain work in waters of the United States, as described below and shown on the attached plan.

Comments: Comments on the described work should reference the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers number shown above and should reach this office no later than the above expiration date of this Public Notice to become part of the record and be considered in the decision. Comments should be mailed to the following address:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
ATTN: CENWP-OP-GP (Ms. Mary J. Headley)
P.O. Box 2946
Portland, Oregon 97208-2946

Applicant: Union County Planning Department
1106 K Avenue
La Grande, Oregon 97850

Location: Union County Airport, Gekeler Slough, Section 25, Township 3 South, Range 38 East, La Grande, Union County, Oregon

Purpose: To comply with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) standards for Runway Safety Area (RSA) and Runway Protection Zone (RPZ) lengths. The RSA is a defined surface surrounding the runway prepared for, or suitable for, reducing the risk of damage to airplanes in the event of an undershoot, overshoot, or excursion from the runway. The RPZ is an area that has specific land use limitations in order to keep the approach to an airport runway clear of obstacles. Currently, the airport does not meet federally required RSA dimensional standards.

Project Description: The applicant proposes to shift a runway, its parallel taxiway, and the existing 500-foot by 1,000-foot RSA, to the southeast by 660 feet. This runway shift would provide needed space for a 760-foot extension of the RSA on the northwest end of the runway, enabling RSA compliance with FAA regulations. An existing roadway (Airport Lane) would be relocated to the south, onto land that is presently under irrigated cultivation for agriculture, and fenced cattle pasture. The project proposal would involve relocating a 950-foot reach of Gekeler Slough, and constructing a culverted road crossing of Gekeler Slough. The project proposal

would involve discharging approximately 2,700 cubic yards of fill material into 0.26 acre of stream channel (950 feet by 12 feet), and 0.1 acre of adjacent wetlands.

Drawings: 6 drawings entitled *La Grande-Union County Airport Runway Safety Area Improvements*, COE No. 200100282

Additional Information: Additional information may be obtained from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Ms. Mary J. Headley, Project Manager, at (503) 808-4392, or by electronic mail at mary.j.headley@usace.army.mil.

Authority: This permit will be issued or denied under the following:

Section 404, Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), for discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States.

Water Quality Certification: A permit for the described work will not be issued until certification, as required under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (P.L. 95-217), has been received or is waived from the certifying state. Attached is the state's notice advertising the request for certification.

Section 404(b)(1) Evaluation: The impact of the activity on the public interest will be evaluated in accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency guidelines pursuant to Section 404(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act.

Public Hearing: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

Endangered Species: Preliminary determinations indicate that the proposed activity may affect an endangered or threatened species or its critical habitat. The Federal Aviation Administration completed consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 844).

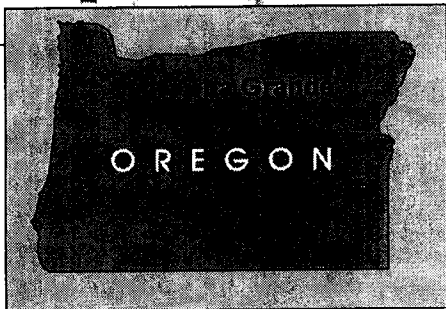
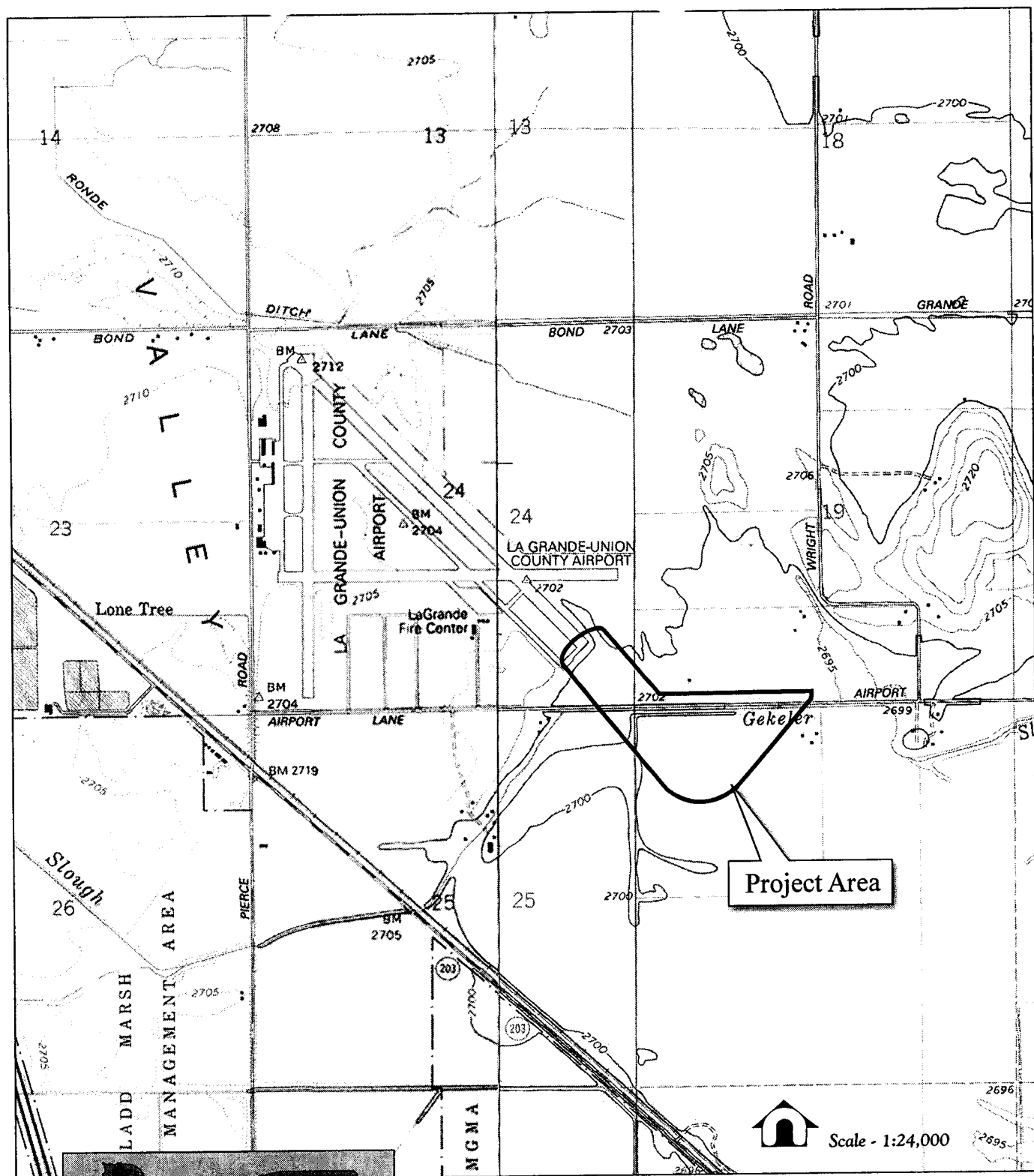
Cultural Resources: An initial evaluation of the proposed project area indicates that there are no recorded historic properties within the permit area. The permit area has been so extensively modified by modern development that little likelihood exists for the proposed project to affect an undisturbed historic property or any other type of cultural resource. This notice has been provided to the State Historic Preservation Office, interested Native American Indian Tribes, and other interested parties. If you have information pertaining to cultural resources within the permit area, please provide this information to the Corps project manager (identified on page 1 of this notice) to assist in a complete evaluation of potential affects.

Evaluation: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the described activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the described activity, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors, which may be

relevant to the described activity will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, consideration of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

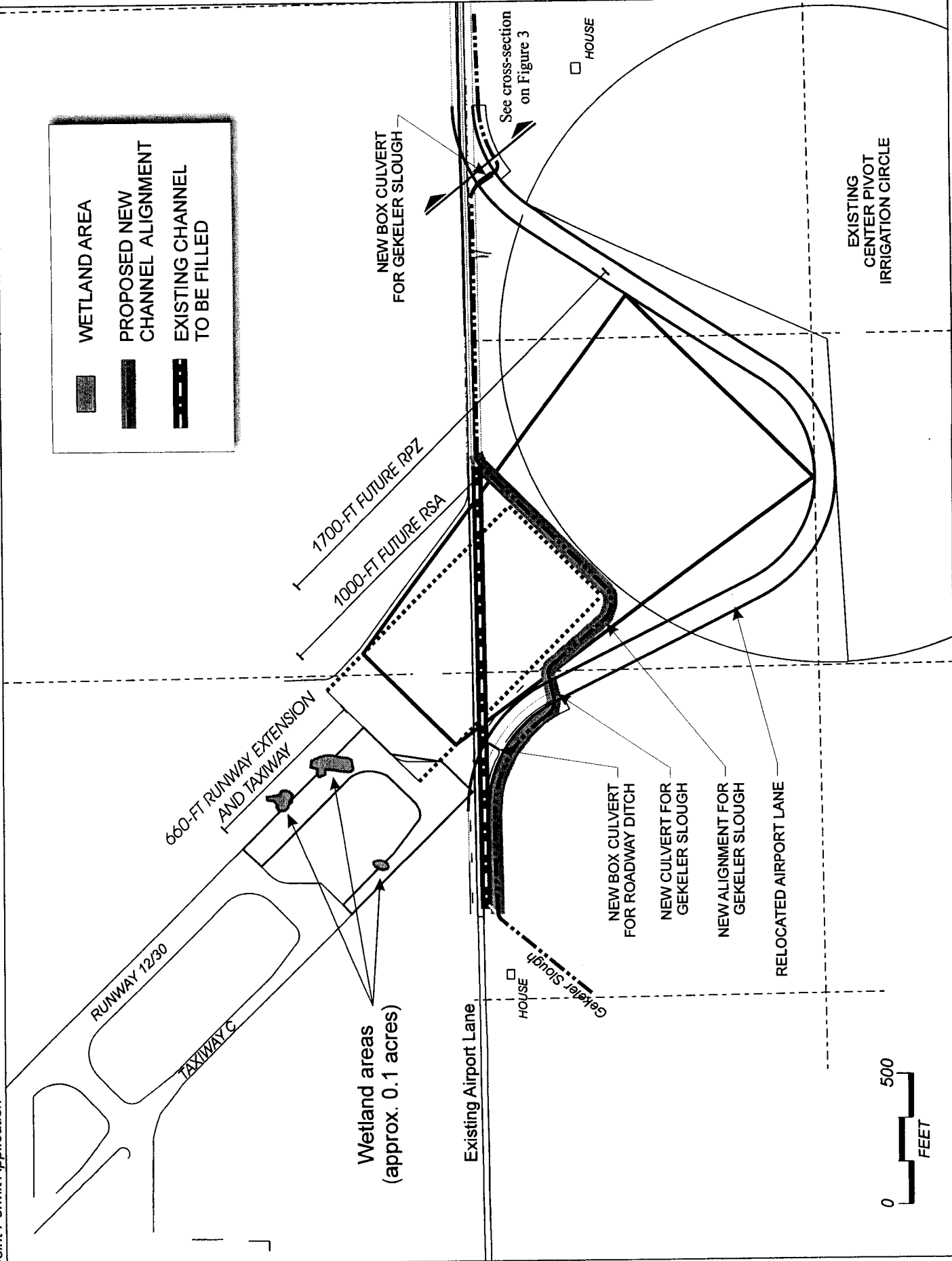
Additional Requirements: State law requires that leases, easements, or permits be obtained for certain works or activity in the described waters. These State requirements must be met, where applicable, and a Department of the Army permit must be obtained before any work within the applicable Statutory Authority, previously indicated, may be accomplished. Other local governmental agencies may also have ordinances or requirements, which must be satisfied before the work is accomplished.



USGS 7.5 minute quadrangles, La Grande and Conley, Oregon, 1994

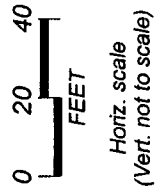
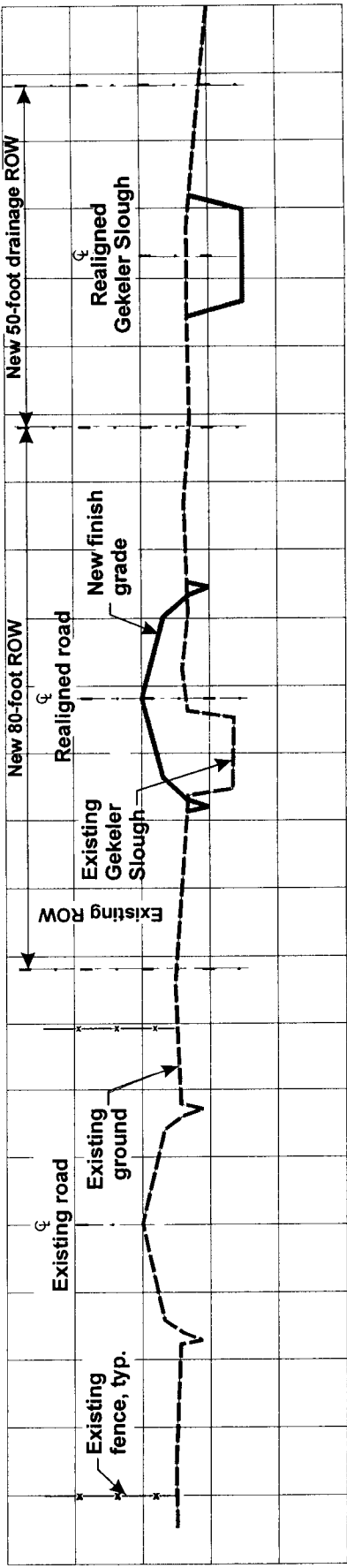
Figure 1
Vicinity





La Grande-Union County Airport Runway Safety Area Improvements, COE No. 200100282

Figure 2 Preferred Alternative



AIRPORT LANE AND GEKELER SLOUGH
REALIGNMENT SECTION

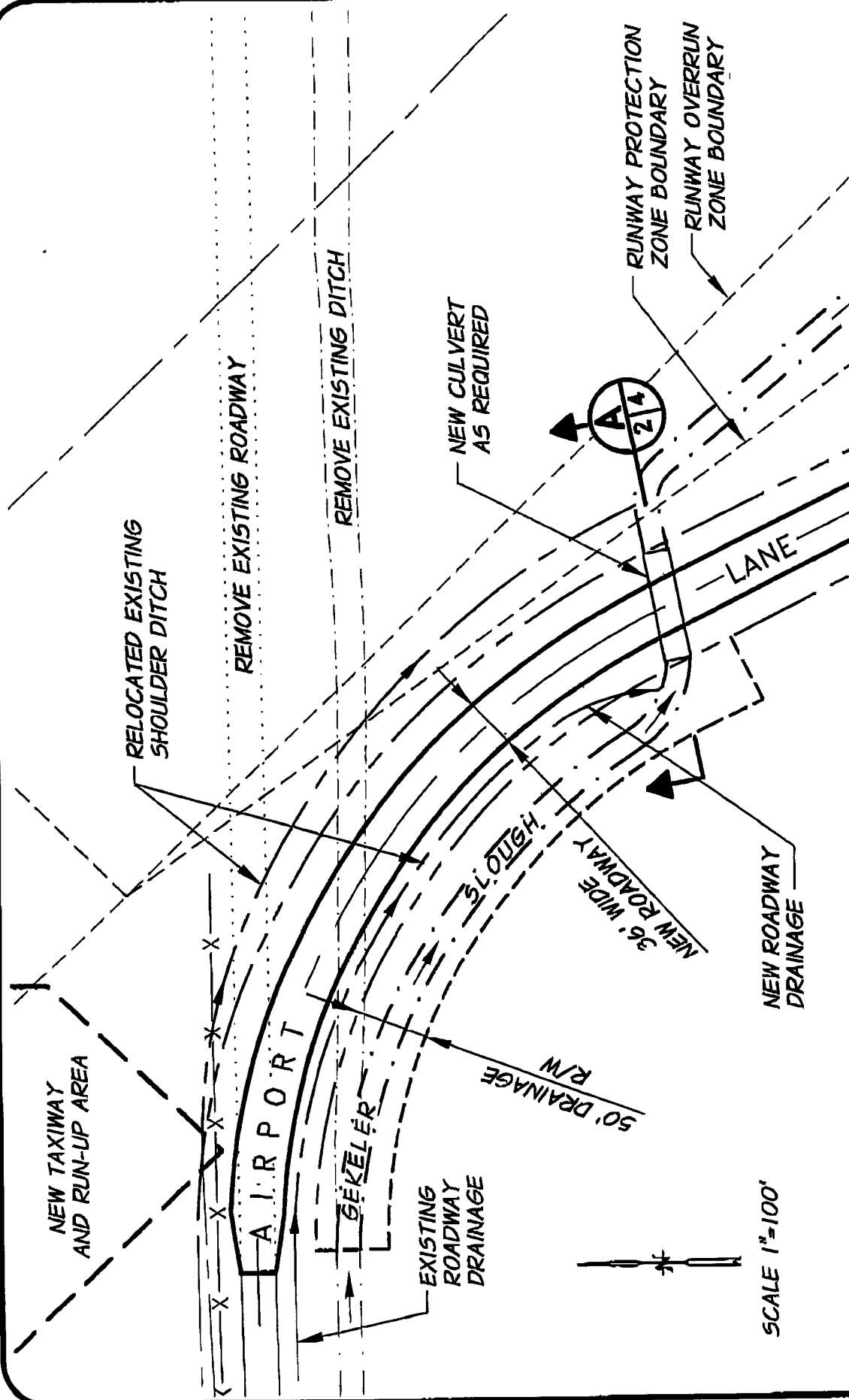
Figure 3
Realignment section

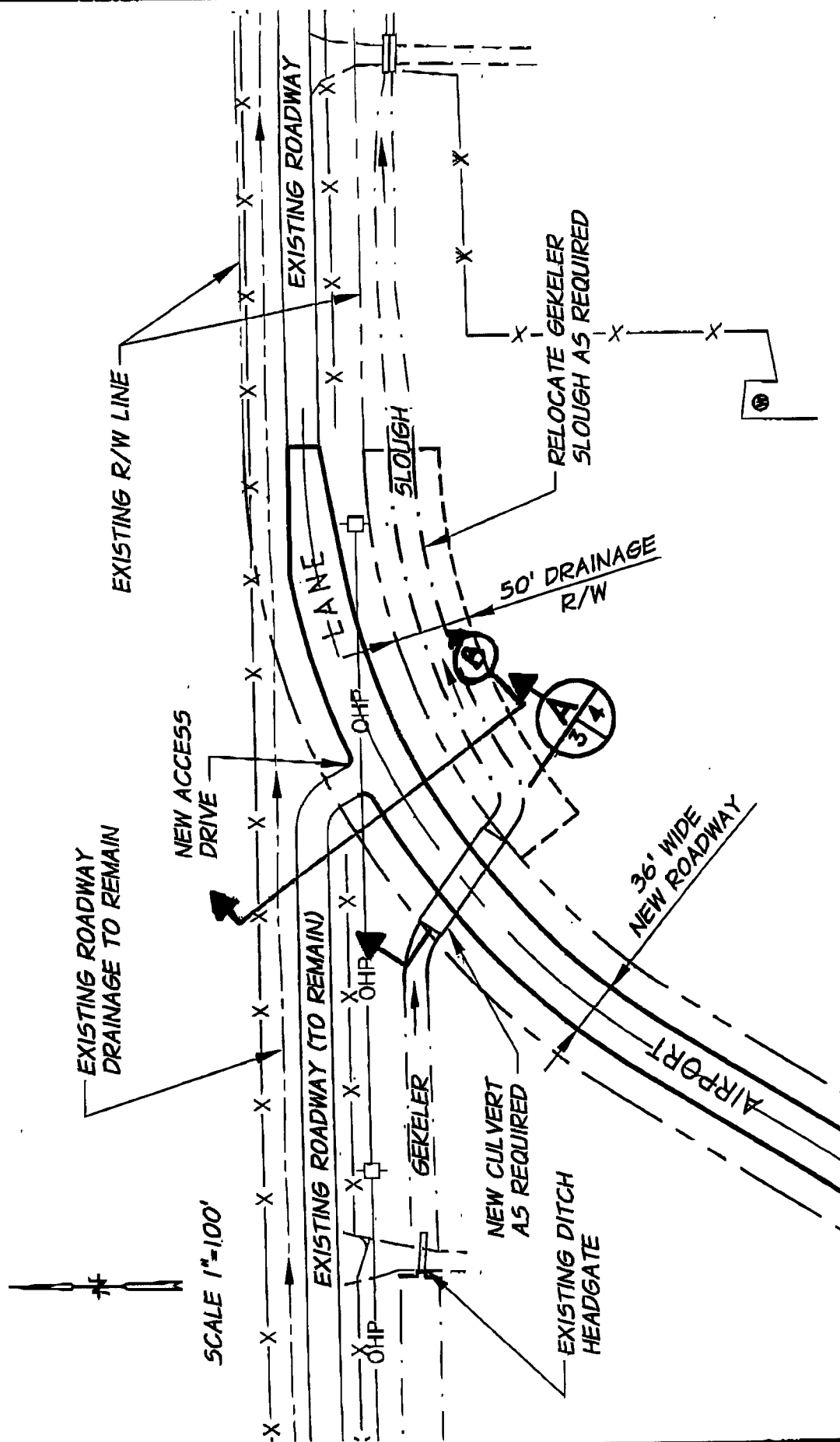
FIGURE

2

LA GRANDE-UNION COUNTY
RUNWAY EXTENSION
AIRPORT LANE REALIGNMENT
GEKELER SLOUGH/AIRPORT LANE
CROSSING (WEST SIDE)

La Grande-Union County Airport Runway
Safety Area Improvements, COE No. 200100282

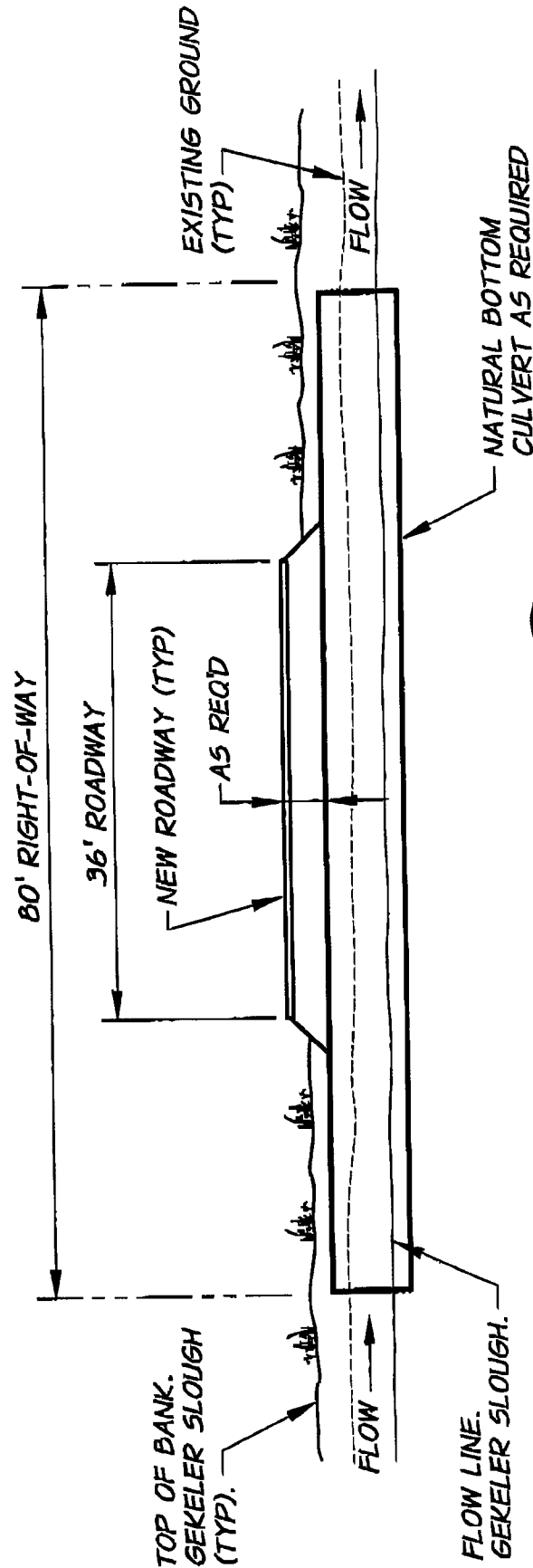




LA GRANDE-UNION COUNTY
RUNWAY EXTENSION
AIRPORT LANE REALIGNMENT
GEKELER SLOUGH/AIRPORT LANE
CROSSING (EAST SIDE)

FIGURE

3



SECTION **A**

2	4
3	

N.T.S.

LA GRANDE-UNION COUNTY
RUNWAY EXTENSION
AIRPORT LANE REALIGNMENT
GEKELER SLOUGH/AIRPORT LANE
CROSSING (TYPICAL SECTION)

FIGURE
4

PUBLIC NOTICE

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

Water Quality 401 Certification

Corps of Engineers Action ID Number: 200100282
Oregon Division of State Lands Number: RF 23850/DET 020584

Notice Issued: May 29, 2003
Written Comments Due: June 30, 2003

WHO IS THE APPLICANT: Union County Planning Department

LOCATION OF CERTIFICATION ACTIVITY: See attached U.S. Army Corps of Engineers public notice

WHAT IS PROPOSED: See attached U.S. Army Corps of Engineers public notice on the proposed project
NEED FOR CERTIFICATION: Section 401 of the Federal Clean Water Act requires applicants for Federal permits or licenses to provide the Federal agency a water quality certification from the State of Oregon if the proposed activity may result in a discharge to surface waters.

DESCRIPTION OF DISCHARGES: See attached U.S. Army Corps of Engineers public notice on the proposed project

WHERE TO FIND DOCUMENTS: Documents and related material are available for examination and copying at Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Water Quality Division, 811 S.W. 6th Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97204

While not required, scheduling an appointment will ensure documents are readily accessible during your visit. To schedule an appointment please call Alice Kavajecz at (503) 229-6962.

Any questions on the proposed certification may be addressed to the 401 Program Coordinator, (503) 229-5845 or toll free within Oregon at 1-800-452-4011. People with hearing impairments may call DEQ's TTY at (503) 229-6993.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Public Hearing: Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 340-48-0020 (6) states that "The Director shall provide an opportunity for the applicant, any affected state, or any interested agency, person, or group of persons to request or petition for a public hearing with respect to certification applications. If the Director determines that new information may be produced thereby, a public hearing will be held prior to the Director's final determination. Instances of doubt shall be resolved in favor of holding the hearing. There shall be public notice of such a hearing."

Written comments:

Written comments on the proposed certification must be received at the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality by 5 p.m. on (full date). Written comments should be mailed to Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Attn: 401 Program Coordinator, 811 S.W. 6th Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97204. ***People wishing to send written comments via e-mail should be aware that if there is a delay between servers or if a server is not functioning properly, e-mails may not be received prior to the close of the public comment period.*** People wishing to send comments via e-mail should send them in Microsoft Word (through version 7.0), WordPerfect (through version 6.x) or plain text format. Otherwise, due to conversion difficulties, DEQ recommends that comments be sent in hard copy.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT: DEQ will review and consider all comments received during the public comment period. Following this review, the permit may be issued as proposed, modified, or denied. You will be notified of DEQ's final decision if you present either oral or written comments during the comment period. Otherwise, if you wish to receive notification, please call or write DEQ at the above address.

ACCESSIBILITY INFORMATION: This publication is available in alternate format (e.g. large print, Braille) upon request. Please contact DEQ Public Affairs at (503) 229-5766 or toll free within Oregon at 1-800-452-4011 to request an alternate format. People with a hearing impairment can receive help by calling DEQ's TTY at (503) 229-6993.